



THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

November has seen the completion of our new school entrance which adds to the security and aesthetics of our school site. I would like to thank parents/carers for their support with the new entrance and for helping to ensure that the school is now a safer environment for our students.

As a school community, on 11th November, we remembered those who have fallen in battles in the past and the less distant past through the national two minute silence. As a further mark of respect, students from the CCF led our school assemblies on the theme of remembrance. A record number of Gilbertdians attended school wearing the uniforms of their youth organisations and took part in the wreath laying ceremony. Further details can be found below.

On 20th November, we were delighted to celebrate the success of the class of 2025 at The Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall on the campus of The University of Essex; former students returned to receive their GCSE certificates and special awards. The key-note speech and awards were presented by ex-Gilberdian, Jennifer Kaye, now a Lecturer at the Edge Hotel School, University of Essex. It is always a pleasure to attend this prestigious event; we also look forward with pride to hearing about the exciting ventures yet to come from this cohort.

Finally, I'd like to remind parents that you can follow us on our Gilbert Facebook page to read more about the positive achievements of our students, including the many sporting fixtures that take place.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

VEX IQ Competition

On 17th October, four teams from Years 8 and 9 took part in a regional robotics competition against teams from schools across East Anglia and London. It was a fiercely competitive event and, as usual, our talented STEM Gilbertdian teams worked hard throughout the competition, showing excellent teamwork, skills and thoughtful planning. We are delighted that one team has successfully qualified for The National Final in March 2026.

Mr K Karantzis
Lead Teacher of Science



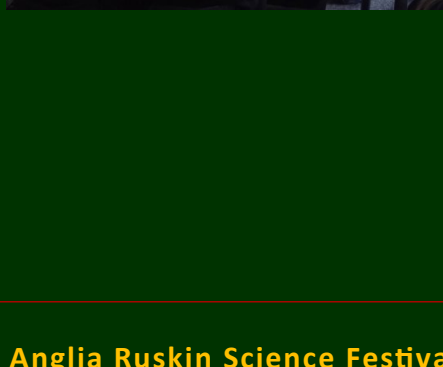
Foreign Language Film Club

Our first Foreign Language Film Club of the year kicked off after school on Thursday, 23rd October with a fantastic screening of *7 Zwerge* - a humorous and heartwarming German twist on the classic tale of the Seven Dwarfs.

Students enjoyed an authentic cultural experience while sharpening their language skills in a fun, relaxed setting.

The club meets every half term, so don't miss out! Our next screening is on Friday, 12th December. Students can sign up with Mrs Gailey in Room 36.

Mrs R Gailey
Curriculum Leader of MFL



Anglia Ruskin Science Festival

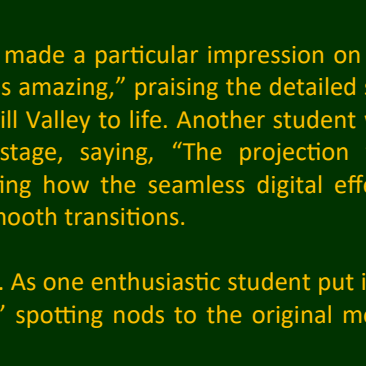
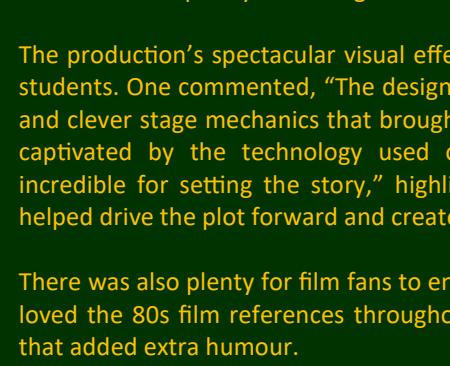
Last month, a group of Year 11 students attended the Science Festival at Anglia Ruskin University.

Students tested a vast range of scientific skills, ranging from engineering to forensic and medical skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to use a vast array of equipment within a university environment.

Mr K Karantzis
Lead Teacher of Science



Year 9 Theatre Trip: Back to the Future Musical



Earlier this month, Year 9 students travelled to London for an unforgettable trip to see *Back to the Future: The Musical*. From the moment the curtain rose, the show captured everyone's imagination with its fast-paced storytelling, iconic characters and plenty of nostalgic fun.

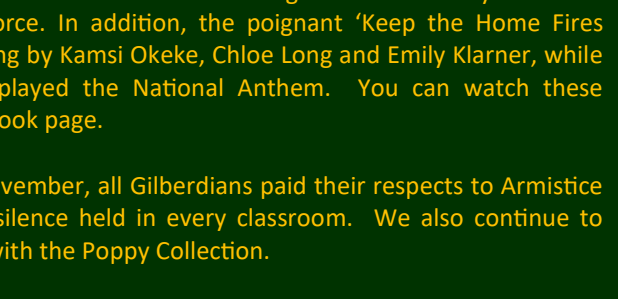
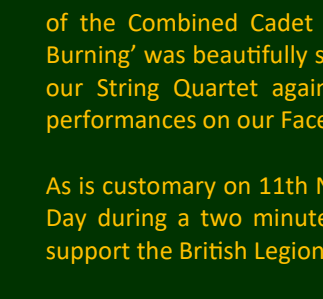
The production's spectacular visual effects made a particular impression on our students. One commented, "The design was amazing," praising the detailed sets and clever stage mechanics that brought Hill Valley to life. Another student was captivated by the technology used on stage, saying, "The projection was incredible for setting the story," highlighting how the seamless digital effects helped drive the plot forward and create smooth transitions.

There was also plenty for film fans to enjoy. As one enthusiastic student put it, "I loved the 80s film references throughout," spotting nods to the original movie that added extra humour.

As always, our students demonstrated excellent behaviour and theatre etiquette and returned buzzing with inspiration - and perhaps a renewed appreciation for time-travelling DeLoreans!

Mrs C Howard
Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts

Remembrance Day Events

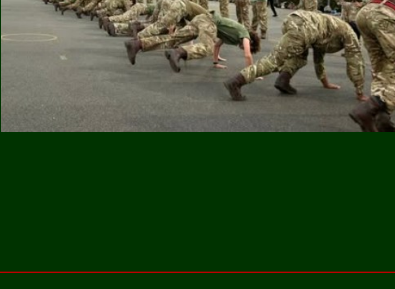
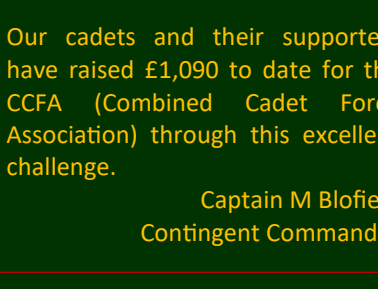


On 11th November, we held a moving Armistice Day Remembrance Service at The Gilbert School, with members of The Gilbert Combined Cadet Force and other uniformed youth organisations on parade. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Year 8 Gilbertdian, Lawrence Gordon. John McCrae's poem, 'In Flanders Fields', was read by Head Cadet L/Cpl Walkerdine, while the poppy wreath was laid by Head Cadet, Sgt Hopkins. At the end of the service, the National Anthem was performed beautifully by a string quartet of Ekhad Chan, Charlotte Pang, Maryia Kizer and Hazel Chan.

Our School Remembrance Assemblies were led throughout the week by members of the Combined Cadet Force. In addition, the poignant 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' was beautifully sung by Kamsi Okeke, Chloe Long and Emily Klarner, while our String Quartet again played the National Anthem. You can watch these performances on our Facebook page.

As is customary on 11th November, all Gilbertdians paid their respects to Armistice Day during a two minute silence held in every classroom. We also continue to support the British Legion with the Poppy Collection.

Miss A Bird
Deputy Headteacher

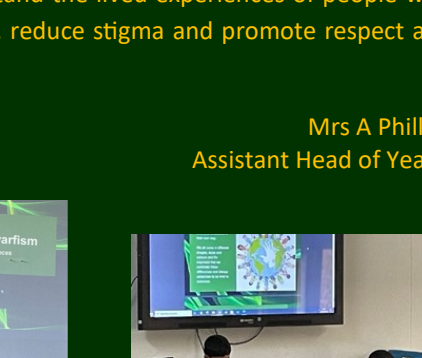
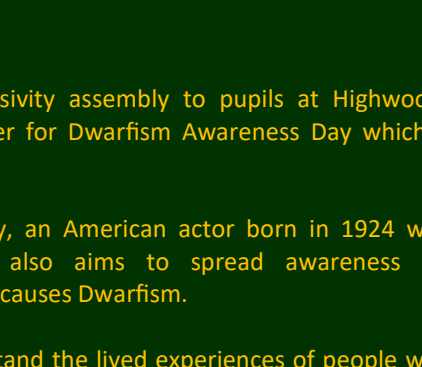


CCF Burpee Challenge

On the evening of 6th November, our cadets took on the Burpee Challenge, pushing themselves to the limit with incredible energy and teamwork. Over the course of the evening, they completed more than 3,200 burpees - a true testament to their determination and commitment.

Our cadets and their supporters have raised £1,090 to date for the CCFA (Combined Cadet Force Association) through this excellent challenge.

Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander



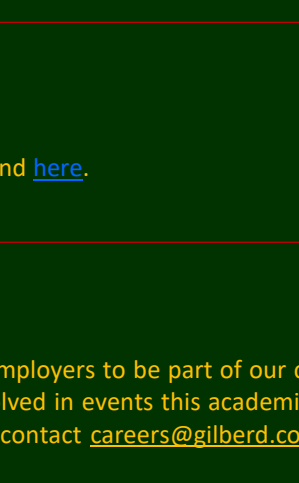
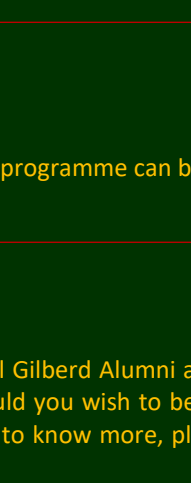
Inclusivity Assembly

Year 7 student Rico Cox delivered an inclusivity assembly to pupils at Highwoods Community Primary School on 17th November for Dwarfism Awareness Day which is observed on 25th October each year.

The date honours the birthday of Billy Barty, an American actor born in 1924 who founded Little People America (LPA). It also aims to spread awareness for Achondroplasia - a bone growth disorder that causes Dwarfism.

Rico believes that educating others to understand the lived experiences of people with Dwarfism will in turn, improve understanding, reduce stigma and promote respect and accurate representation of this condition.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7



Co-Curricular Provision

Information on our co-curricular programme can be found [here](#).

Careers and Alumni

Join our CEIAG Community. Calling all Gilbert Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilbert School. Should you wish to be involved in events this academic year, working with our students and want to know more, please contact careers@gilberd.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dates for your diary

Non Pupil Day
Friday, 28th November

Mock Exams
1st to 11th December (Y11)
Friday, 5th December (Y10 RE)

Uniform Exchange
Tuesday, 2nd December

Y10 Parents' Evenings (online)
Wednesday, 10th December (Y-Pop)

Student Vaccinations
Wednesday, 10th December (Y9 MenACWY/DTP)
Wednesday, 17th December (Y9 MenACWY/DTP)
Wednesday, 7th January (Y8 HPV)
Thursday, 12th February (Y8 HPV 2nd round)

Textile Practical Exam
Friday, 12th December (Y11)

Art Practical Exam
Friday, 12th December (Y11)

Christmas Events
Tuesday, 2nd December
(Y7,Y10,Y11 John Williams at Charter Hall)
Wednesday, 3rd December (Y7 Film Night)
Thursday, 4th December (Y8 Disco)
Tuesday, 9th December (Y10 Film Night)
Thursday, 11th December (Y8, Y9 War Museum)
Tuesday, 16th December (Y8-Y11 Care Home)

Winter Concert (whole school)
Wednesday, 17th December

Last Day of Term
Friday, 19th December at 12:10

Start of Spring Term
Monday, 5th January

PE Practical Exams
5th to 9th January (Y11)

Y10 Mock Interviews
Wednesday, 14th January

Assessment Weeks
12th to 23rd January (Y8)
26th January to 6th February (Y9)

Y11 Parents' Evenings (online)
Wednesday, 14th January (X-Pop)
Wednesday, 28th January (Y-Pop)

Y10 Information & Support Evening
Wednesday, 21st January

Y11 Food Practical Exams
26th January to 6th February

School Production (whole school)
9th to 14th February (Mon-Sat)

Non Pupil Day
Friday, 13th February

Half Term
w/c 16th February

First Day of Term
Monday, 23rd February